

Trail Key: Points of interest have marked posts corresponding to the numbers listed.

1. Here is a very large specimen of Ironwood, or Hop-hornbeam. The name Ironwood refers to the great strength of the wood. This wood is highly desirable because it is very hard and heavy. Since these trees are smaller than many other trees, they usually do not reach the canopy. Ironwood produces seeds in papery sacks and provide food for wildlife.

2. Take a close look at this large dead, hollow Maple tree. Notice the shelf or bracket fungi on the side of the tree. Shelf fungus is a disease of the tree's heartwood. Once a tree becomes infected, its interior structure becomes severely damaged ultimately leading to death by white or brown rot.

3. These sharp thorned shrubs are Prickly Ash. Prickly ash shrubs are members of the rue or citrus family. In season, you can smell the distinct citrus-like aroma of its flowers and red fruits.

4. You are standing on glacial debris from the last ice age which occurred around 25,000—21,000 years ago! This debris, or till, consists of numerous boulders, gravel, and sand. Today Jack Pine and Ground Juniper are invading this grassy old pasture area. Ground Juniper has a very potent fragrance and scale- like leaves. These leaves are green in the warmer months and turn purple in winter. Also note the nesting boxes in the area—these are often occupied by bluebirds, tree swallows or house wrens.

5. Look up! Note the closed canopy in this patch of old growth forest that has not undergone any major unnatural changes (such as logging) for more than 100 to 150 years. Shade tolerant maples persist for years, waiting for a hole in the canopy allowing light to reach the saplings .

6. This is a large Red Oak tree. These trees have distinct leaves with 7 and 11 pointed lobes. Most years, Red Oaks like this one provide large quantities of acorns consumed by deer, bear, grouse, turkey, squirrels, wood ducks, and many other animals.

7. This is a Cherry tree. This tree has bark that starts out smooth and dark gray but soon develops black scales that resemble burnt potato chips, which is what you are now seeing. Cherry trees have deep reddish wood valued for furniture and paneling. Cherry trees also produce fruit that is eaten by wildlife.

8. This is a Basswood tree. Basswood trees have unique large heart-shaped leaves with small, saw-like teeth along the edges. Basswoods are named for the stringy bast, or inner bark, fibers that Native Americans used to make ropes of twine. Basswood flowers can produce abundant pollen that attracts butterflies and bees.



9. Here are three different kinds of hardwood ferns. Ferns are quintessential woodland plants, providing lush, deep green carpets beneath the trees. Along this trail is Maidenhair, Bracken and Ostrich fern. Maidenhair fern has fine feathery blades with dark stems. Bracken fern has multiple branching stems with triangular shaped blades. Ostrich fern can grow to be 6-8 feet tall and have huge rounded fan-like blades.

10. This area contains many Beech trees, a “climax” species which form the stable end product of succession. “Beech” comes from an old English and German word meaning “book.” Tradition holds that ancient sacred writings were scribed on Beech wood. The leaves and bark are also used to make dyes.

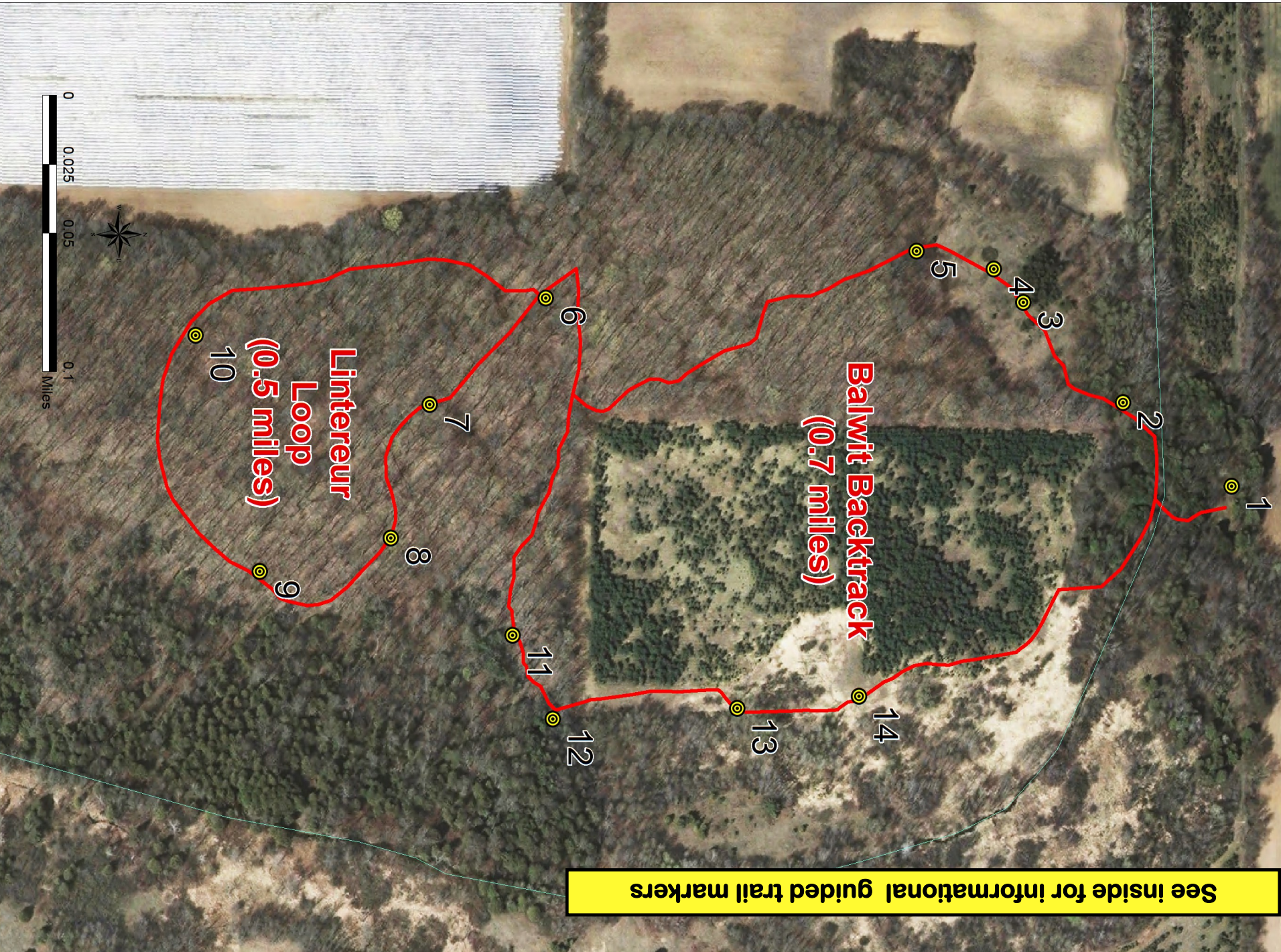
11. Bigtooth Aspen are usually pioneers on open sites with exposed soil. Their tiny seeds are tufted with hairs and may be carried long distances by wind. There may be more than three million seeds per pound. As the Aspen begin to decay and die, their soft wood becomes choice habitat for cavity nesting birds like chickadees, nuthatches, and woodpeckers.

12. This area contains Yellow Birch, White Cedar, and Eastern Hemlock trees. Eventually, shade tolerant Beech, Hemlock and Maple will replace the Birch and Cedar if the high deer population does not keep them cropped off. Few plants grow under the Hemlock due to the acid soil conditions created by decay of their needles and the deep shade they cast.

13. You've reached the boardwalk. This boardwalk was created by a local Eagle Scout. Projects like this can be seen throughout the trails and wouldn't be possible without the support from the Community.

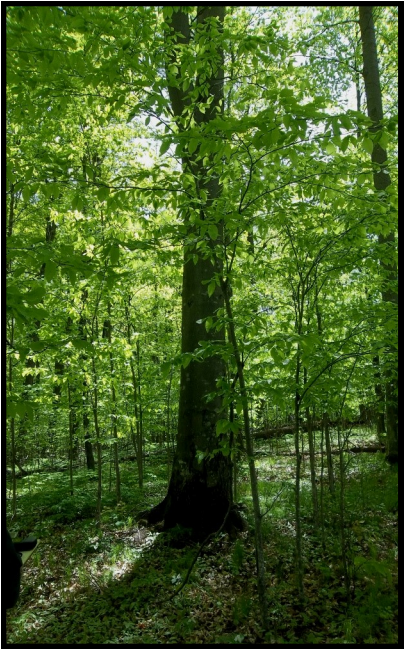
14. This was forested swamp before it was cleared for agriculture. Sucker Brook flows through and annually floods the meadow. The poorly drained soil of this low site was first colonized by sedges, rushes, and grasses, followed by shrubs and trees which make up a pioneer community. Reed canary grass presently dominates the open area while Red-osier Dogwood, willow species, and Balsam Poplar provide the woody cover. In spring, when the Balsam Poplar's leaves appear and the fruit develops, it gives off a characteristic aroma and resin.

Harmony Hardwoods Walking Trail



Harmony Hardwoods Memorial Forest

Walking through these woods are like walking back in time. There are trees here that escaped the Great Peshtigo Fire in 1871 that burned 1.2 million acres in Northeast Wisconsin. Guided tours are held annually. The Wildflower Tour in May showcases the variety of spring ephemeral flowers and the Bird Watching Hike in June offers the opportunity to learn about Marinette County's forest bird species.



Directions

Take Highway 64 west of Marinette for approximately 8 miles. Turn south on County Road E, go a quarter of a mile down the road and the Harmony Arboretum is located on the left at N3890. The Arboretum is always open to the public and it's **FREE!**



Marinette County's Land & Water Conservation Division, UW-Extension, Northern Lights Master Gardeners, and the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society all help manage the Harmony Hardwoods to protect wildlife habitat, recreation, and Environmental education opportunities. Community is truly the key to its success.

Thank you!



Land Information Department
Land & Water Conservation Division
1926 Hall Avenue
Marinette, WI 54143-1717

For more information:
Call: 715-732-7780
Email: sheri.denowski@marinettecounty.com



Harmony Hardwoods Memorial Forest

Release your inner explorer by taking a guided hike through a unique Marinette County Scenic Landscape.



"Take nothing but pictures,
Leave nothing but footprints,
Kill nothing but time."
- John Muir



Illustrated Trail Map & Guide